

# Abstract Form

Abstract is to be typed in a 10 point font/typeface (Times Roman preferred) and must fit in the space below; additional pages may not be submitted.

## FOR REVIEWER USE

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Reviewer's signature

## FOR OFFICE USE

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_

### TITLE:

Streamlining the Donation Process through Routine Referral legislation

### DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

Medical record review data collected by the New York Organ Donor Network indicates that roughly one-third of donor potential is missed because a referral is never made by a hospital. A closer look reveals that more than half of the potential donors ages 50 and older are not referred. In 1995, the Donor Network participated in a Routine Referral pilot project in 10 hospitals, requiring hospital staff to refer all deaths for evaluation. Results of the pilot project showed an increase in referrals and a 24% increase in organ donation. Medical record review data also showed that, in the hospital setting, physicians and nurses were approaching families themselves, with a consent rate of 6% (8 consents out of 115 approaches), about six times less than when a family is approached by a representative from The Donor Network. The Donor Network successfully lobbied for the passage of Routine Referral legislation, effective January 1, 1998, to help streamline and tighten the donation process to help increase referrals and consent. The law mandates that hospitals notify The Donor Network of all patient deaths or when death is imminent, with the exceptions of patients over 86 years old or those with documented HIV. The second part of the law, taking its cue from the poor consent rate among hospital staff, specifies that only a representative from an OPO, eye or tissue bank may initiate the request for donation. Active hospital development activities are helping to implement these regulations.

### DESCRIPTION OF EVALUATION (if completed, provide results):

The impact of Routine Referral legislation will ultimately be measured at the end of 1998, based on the number of organ and tissue donors and on a thorough medical record review. Through this review, The Donor Network will be able to measure any increases in referral and consent rates. Individual hospitals will be measured based on their compliance in terms of referrals and consents. In the first two months of the implementation of the law, The Donor Network has seen the number of monthly referrals nearly triple compared to the monthly average in 1997. Active hospital development activities and professional outreach projects are underway to help educate hospital staff about the requirements of the law and their specific role in the donation process.

### CONTACT:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title/Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_